

### **REMARKS**

By the present amendment, Claims 1, 6, 8 and 14 have been amended without adding new matter. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 are pending, with Claims 1, 6 and 8 being independent claims and Claims 3 and 14 being dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 based on the amendment above and the remarks below.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Decker (U.S. Patent No. 6,281,984 B1) in view of Rozzi (U.S. Patent No. 6,956,580 B2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method performed by an information processing apparatus including a processor, for converting input color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data into output color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data, the input color data being dependent on a source device and the output color data being dependent on a destination device. The information processing method includes two obtaining steps, two determining steps, and three outputting steps.

In amended Claim 1, the two determining steps include (1) determining whether a black-printing compensation is applied, and (2) determining whether the input color data indicates a simple black color.

In determination (1), it is determined whether or not a black-printing compensation should be applied in the first place. Furthermore, in determination (2), it is determined whether or not input color data can be subject to the black-printing compensation.

In accordance with the results of determinations (1) and (2), processing performed is divided into the following steps (a), (b) and (c).

Processing step (a) involves outputting, by the processor, in a first case that the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color.

Processing step (b) involves outputting, by the processor, in a second case that the black-printing compensation is not applied, color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color.

Processing step (c) involves outputting, by the processor, in a third case that the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color does not indicate the simple black color, color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color.

Decker discloses converting externally defined four dimensional colorants into equivalent four dimensional colorants printed by a printer. Decker describes how an externally defined colorant combination is mapped to an equivalent fourth colorant  $K'$  of the printer by matching optical density, reflectance,  $L^*$  or a similar color value.  $K'$  is determined previously, and then one conversion table of CMYK to C'M'Y'K' are generated based on the determined  $K'$ . Decker nowhere discloses or reasonably suggests performing determination (1) in accordance with amended Claim 1, e.g. determining whether a black-printing compensation is applied.

Thus, Decker fails to disclose or reasonably suggests that processing performed is divided into steps (a), (b) and (c) based on results of determinations (1) and (2), in accordance with amended Claim 1.

Rozzi discloses a color display device with an integrated color matching processor. Rozzi fails to supplement the deficiencies of Decker because Rozzi nowhere discloses or reasonably suggests determinations (1) and (2) in accordance with amended Claim 1. Thus, Rozzi also fails to disclose or reasonably suggest that processing performed is divided into steps (a), (b)

and (c) based on results of determinations (1) and (2), in accordance with amended Claim 1.

More particularly, Decker, Rozzi, or any combination thereof, fails to disclose or reasonably suggest, *inter alia*, an information processing method performed by an information processing apparatus including a processor, for converting input color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data into output color data including a plurality of color component data and black component data, the input color data being dependent on a source device and the output color data being dependent on a destination device, the information processing method comprising: obtaining a source profile corresponding to the source device and a destination profile corresponding to the destination device, wherein the destination profile includes a first color conversion from a device dependent color space into a device-independent color space and a second color conversion from a device-independent color space into a device dependent color space; **determining whether a black-printing compensation is applied; obtaining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on the first color conversion of the destination profile; determining whether the input color data indicates a simple black color; outputting, by the processor, in a first case that the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, color data for the simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the source profile and the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color; outputting, by the processor, in a second case that the black-printing compensation is not applied, color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color; and outputting, by the processor, in a third case that the black-printing compensation is applied and the input color does not indicate the simple black color, color data by using the source profile and the second color conversion of the destination profile without using the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color,** wherein a value of plurality

of color component data included in the input color data determined as the simple black color is 0, in accordance with amended Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is allowable because Decker, Rozzi, or any combination thereof, does not disclose or reasonably suggest the features described above.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 8 each contains substantially similar features as those discussed above with reference to Claim 1. As such, allowance of Claims 6 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 3 and 14 are allowable because they each depend from an allowable claim and because they also define an additional aspect of the present application. Furthermore, each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Decker and Rozzi.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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